

February 27

Excerpts from ~ 8 chapters in Deuteronomy. Pieces of Exodus 23

Hello everybody! First of all I wanted to commend you for trucking through some pretty tedious passages on religious and ceremonial laws. Today's reading was no different as you were able to learn more about the Laws of Government that God put in place.

In a desire to change things up a bit and have a little fun we are going to do something different in our accelerators for these last two days in February. Instead of ME giving you insights into the passage, I am going to ask YOU several questions on our reading. Yes, it is a pop quiz, but no, there will be no grading so you can relax and have some fun with this.

You ready?

Ok first question:

1 - T or F If Israel would someday appoint a king over them, the king had to be a brother Israelite. TRUE

2 -The king was commanded to NOT take many wives. Why?

Answer: His heart would be led astray.

On a side note, we see this warning come true in one particular future King of Israel. King Solomon. 300 wives and 300 concubines...In I Kings 11:4 we read, "For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God." just like the law predicted...

3 - When the king took the throne he was to write the law for himself, keep it with him and read it all the days of his life. Why?

Answer: So that he may LEARN to revere the Lord his God and FOLLOW carefully all the words of the law not turning from the right or left and not consider himself better than his brothers.

When I read God's reason for the king to read his law all the days of his life, it makes me think about how those reasons are applicable to us to today for reading His word - To help us learn to fear God, to guide us in doing what is right, and to help keep us humble in our relationships with each other.

So to you who is listening today, keep pressing on in Project 4:4. The benefits of reading God's precious gift to us are priceless.

On to some questions on the Judicial System

4 - T or F. The priests and the judge have the final say in a difficult case. True.

God took their position of ministerial leadership very seriously and if a man was willfully disobedient or disrespectful to those he placed in authority, God declared they must be put to death.

5 - Do you remember what reason was given for why bribes were not to be accepted?

Answer: Because bribes blind those who see and they twist the words of the righteous. I thought it was interesting that a reason was given for this law. Many of the laws we have read give no reason and we are left wondering, "Why would God command this?" Not in this case. We are shown the danger in participating in a bribe.

Ok for your next question:

6 - T or F. God's rules for justice protected the poor, the fatherless and the widow. True

God was clear about the command to not show favoritism and to always observe justice in every case, regardless of a person's status. Again, we read a reason God gave for protecting the disadvantaged: God reminded them of their slavery in Egypt and that God had redeemed them from their life of injustice.

Next.

See if you can answer this question –

7 - Which one of the Ten Commandments was addressed in your reading today?

Answer: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The last question of the day:

8 - What is the maximum number of lashes allowed when beating a man guilty of a dispute?

Answer: 40

Fast forward to the New Testament and you may recall that Jesus was beaten before he was crucified. Even though Pilate found no guilt in Jesus, he still had him flogged and then crucified. He would have been flogged 39 times, to be careful not to exceed the 40 lash limit, or just in case they miscounted.

I hope these questions today helped you remember a few more pieces from your reading. Remember, the more we understand the laws of the Old Testament, the better we will understand the beauty of the New Testament and the coming of Jesus.